Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, In the 1870s, the families of Wennblom, Tunnell, Peterson, Sherman, and Anderson from Sweden arrived by covered wagons drawn by oxen and settled in southeast Lincoln and northeast Union Counties of the Dakota Territory; and,

Whereas, The settlers wanted a Swedish Lutheran Church in their own language and organized the Evangelical Lutheran Nathanael congregation at the Swen Wennblom home on May 16, 1885, with Reverend Anders Sundberg officiating; and,

Whereas, The first choir was started in 1889 with a tuning fork, and shortly thereafter was followed by an orchestra and cornet band; and,

Whereas, A violent tornado demolished the original church in 1902. It was rebuilt in 1918, and a second church was built in Alcester to meet the needs of a growing congregation. In 1951, the country church was closed and a new church was again constructed in Alcester with the cornerstone dated 1959; and,

Whereas, Nathanael currently has an active Sunday School, choir, hand bell choir, parish health ministry, church library, quilters group, cemetery association, and women's group (WELCA); and,

Whereas, The Nathanael Lutheran Church has had a presence in the community, and special recognition will be given to the past and present members of this congregation who have faithfully conducted and carried out the wishes of the original founders of the church; and,

Whereas, Pastor Len Halvorson and the congregation will conduct a special service to commemorate the 125th Anniversary in the life of this church:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 15 - 16, 2010, as

NATHANAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH DAYS

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Teresa J. Gray, Deputy

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State